

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 13-15, 20, and 21 have been rejected as anticipated by Grace et al., US 6,581,968. Claims 17 and 18 have been rejected as unpatentable over Grace et al. in view of Wize et al., US 4,169,615. Claims 5, 7, 12, and 16 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim 19 has been withdrawn.

The Examiner's cooperation during the telephone interview of March 7, 2006 is greatly appreciated.

Amended claim 1 recites the device outputting an electronic signal indicative of the tension in the seat belt webbing to a controller, the controller determining whether to actuate a protection device (Specification, page 15, lines 2-5). Grace et al., Wize et al., and the other art of record do not disclose, alone or in combination, these and the other recited features of claim 1.

Claim 1, as well as claims 2-6 which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

Allowable claim 7 has been amended to stand independently by adding the features of unamended claim 1. Claim 7 still recites a loop of material configured to tear when the tension in the seat belt webbing exceeds the predetermined threshold. Grace et al., Wize et al., and the other art of record do not disclose, alone or in combination, this and the other recited features of claim 7. Claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Amended claim 8 recites the sensor portion of the device sensing the tension and providing an electronic tension signal indicative of the sensed tension to a controller for determining whether to actuate a protection device (Specification, page 15, lines 2-5). Grace et al., Wize et al., and the other art of record do not disclose, alone or in combination, these and the other recited features of claim 8.

Claim 8, as well as claims 9-21 which depend from claim 8, are in condition for allowance. Note that withdrawn claim 19, dependent from allowable claims 8, 13-15, and 17, should reinstated.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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